

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

In the Action, the Examiner opines that the present application comprises claims directed to three patentably distinct inventions:

-Invention I: claims 1-4, 9-13 and 17, drawn to a method which corrects a 3-dimensional CT value obtained from a 3-dimensional object, classified in class 382, subclass 131;

-Invention II: claims 5-6 and 14-15, drawn to a method which processes 3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object with respect to upper rank integrated value, classified in class 382, subclass 274; and

-Invention III: claims 7 and 16, drawn to a method which processes a 3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object with respect to upper rank and lower rank, classified in class 382, subclass 104.

The rationale of the Examiner is that the subject-matter of the three subsets of claims do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variant, and if they are separately usable.

The Applicant hereby elects Invention III (claims 7 and 16, drawn to a method which processes a 3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object with respect to upper rank and lower rank).

The Applicant notes that, by issuing the above restriction requirement, the Examiner opines that the subject matter of the subsets of claims are not "obvious variants".

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner is expected to have a consistent approach as to what is, or is not, an "obvious variant" if the Examiner issues an obviousness rejection of the elected claims in a future Office Action.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

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